Under Utilization of Budget allocated for publicity to counter Anti-India propaganda

935. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on publicity and advertisement to counter anti-India propaganda during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry failed to utilize the budget allocation for publicity in 2000-2001 inspite of kargil crisis; and

(c) if so, the reasons for less expenditure for advertising and publicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Presently, only figures for the final amount spent on publicity and advertisement by the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2000-2001 are available. The amount spent under this head during that financial year was Rs. 30.23 crores.

(b) and (c) During the year 2000-2001, while the amount allocated under final estimates for publicity and advertisement at Secretariat was fully utilized, the budget allocated for this purpose to Missions abroad could not be completely utilized. The reasons for the latter included, *inter alia*, postponement of VVIP visits because of unavoidable contingencies, cancellation of publicity-related events, exhibitions and shows due to unfavourable local conditions, disturbed sociopolitical situations in certain countries preventing conduct of normal publicity-related activities, and non-publication of special newspaper supplements or brochures and other publicity material due to prevailing local conditions or postponement of high-level visits in regard to some countries.

Steps taken by India and Pakistan toward restoration of peace

936. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government propose to take to bring peace between India and Pakistan;